

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The growth rate of air passengers, air cargo and airlines operations in the non-metro airports in Tamil Nadu in 2005-06 are: 46.7%, 11.4% and 31.1% at Coimbatore; 12.8%, 114.8% and 23.6% at Trichy; and 12.9%, 15.9% and 0.9% at Madurai Airport.

(b) Various development works have been taken up by Airports Authority of India (AAI) to meet the growth rate of air passengers, air cargo and airlines operations in non-metro airports in Tamil Nadu.

Works related to extension and strengthening of runway is completed; expansion and strengthening of apron is expected to be completed by December, 2006 and there is also proposals for expansion and modification of existing terminal building construction of a new integrated terminal building complex and expansion of existing cargo complex with associated apron at Coimbatore airport.

Works is in progress for extension and strengthening of runway, construction of isolation bays, new fire station, construction of new integrated terminal building with all modern facilities including two aero bridges alongwith expansion of apron and link taxiway at Trichy airport.

Work is in progress for extension and strengthening of runway alongwith expansion of apron, additional link taxiway, isolation bay, installation of ILS on runway 27 at Madurai airport. There is also a proposal for construction of a new integrated terminal building with all modern amenities including installation of two aerobridges.

At Tuticorin airport, Government of Tamil Nadu has been requested to aquire 690 acres of land and handover to AAI free of cost and free from all incumbrances for extension of runway.

Purchase of aircrafts equipped with CAT-III B system

563. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of airports in the country which are equipped with CAT-II System for assisting planes to land at fog hit airports;

(b) whether pilots of Indian and Air India have been trained to operate the flights during foggy weather using CAT-II system;

(c) whether it is a fact that most of the Boeing airplanes in India including the ones yet to be delivered are not compatible to operate using the CAT-III B system, and airline companies, in a bid to save costs, have not opted for these system separately; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Indira Gandhi International Airport at Delhi is the only airport which is equipped with CAT-II/III B landing system.

(b) Indian Airlines Limited have 440 trained pilots whereas Air India has 391 trained pilotes for CAT-II/III operations.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected.

Decongestion of airports

564. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the growth of air traffic during the last three years by percentage and the number of aircrafts;

(b) the additional facilities provided during the same period to handle the increased air traffic;

(c) the reasons for regular delay in landing and take-off of flights from major airports in the country; and

(d) the steps taken to decongest airports?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) The annual average growth rate of total traffic in respect of aircraft movement, passenger and freight for the last three years are 12.8%. 18.8% and 14.4% respectively in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06.

The growth in number of aircraft depend upon traffic potential, investment made by various airlines etc.

(b) Various additional facilities like strengthening and extension of runways, expansion/construction of aprons, construction of isolation bays, construction of new terminal buildings, widening of taxi tracks, installation of various necessary equipments etc. have been provided at various airports.